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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

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Winter Wheat Prospects Improved--But Yields Indicated Behind a Year Ago

Winter wheat production, estimated by the Crop Reporting Board as of April 1 at 966 million bushels, would be 18 percent less than last year's record crop, but 19 percent above average. Prospects have improved since December in the heavy producing Central Great Plains, outweighing poorer prospects in the eastern Corn Belt and in the Southwest.

Indicated yield at 21.4 bushels per seeded acre is second only to last year's phenomenal yield of 26.8 bushels and is well above the average of 16.0 bushels.

More Abandonment than Last Year

Total abandonment and diversion of winter wheat to uses other than grain is indicated at 4.1 million acres, 9 percent of the total acreage seeded for all purposes. This is slightly more than indicated last December. Of the 4.1 million acres abandoned and diverted 2.5 million acres are in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico. This compares with 1.3 million acres abandoned or diverted in these States in 1958. For the United States last year, only 2.5 million acres or 5.8 percent of the total acreage seeded was lost or diverted.

Rye Condition Close to Average

Rye condition, 84 percent of normal on April 1, was 4 points below a year earlier and 1 point below average.

Pasture Condition Favorable

Condition of pastures for the country as a whole averaged 80 percent of normal on April 1. This was 3 percentage points lower than for the same date last year, but otherwise the best April 1 condition since 1953.

Heavy Food Grain Stocks

Food grain stocks on farms April 1 were about 60 percent larger than a year earlier. Wheat stocks show a 60 percent increase--following the record 1958 production--and nearly a fourth more rye was farm stored than a year earlier. Farm stocks of soybeans were up 6 percent from a year ago and nearly double the average. Flaxseed stocks were double those on April 1 of last year.

Stocks of Feed Grains Also Plentiful

Farm stocks of feed grains on April 1 were 8 percent above last year in total tonnage and nearly one-third above average. Compared to a year earlier corn stocks were 8 percent higher, sorghum up 5 percent, oats up 9 percent, and barley up 1 percent. Bountiful harvests last year provided ample feed supplies to maintain

the necessary feeding schedules for the increased livestock numbers during the winter which was long and relatively severe in many sections of the Nation.

Stocks on Farms, April 1, Itemized

Wheat stocks totaled nearly 283 million bushels, up 60 percent from last year and 25 percent above average.

Corn stocks estimated at 1.8 billion bushels, are a record high for April 1, 8 percent more than April 1, 1958 and 30 percent above average.

Oat stocks were estimated at 588 million bushels, a record high for April 1, 9 percent above last year and 21 percent above average.

Barley stocks totaled 151 million bushels, the largest April 1 stocks of record, 1 percent higher than last year and 70 percent above average.

Rye stocks were estimated at 9.6 million bushels, 21 percent above last year and 84 percent above average.

Flaxseed stocks were 13.6 million bushels, nearly twice the April 1, 1958 stocks and 36 percent above average.

Soybean stocks were estimated at 125 million bushels, a record high for April 1, up 6 percent from April 1, 1958 and nearly double the average.

Sorghum grain stocks totaled 102 million bushels on April 1, 5 percent above 1958 and nearly 4 times average stocks for April 1.

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average Prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Feb. 15 1959	Mar. 15 1959	Based on data for Mar. 1959
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)	28.27	30.19	38.00
Wheat (bu)	1.74	1.76	2.36
Rice (100 lb.)	4.94	5.04	5.84
Corn (bu.)	1.04	1.06	1.69
Peanuts (lb.)	11.0	10.7	12.9
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)	58.3	58.8	73.6
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)	4.22	¹ 4.06	4.95
Wool (lb.)	² 35.1	² 35.1	72.1
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)922	.905	1.28
Cottonseed (ton)	43.80	45.40	67.00
Flaxseed (bu.)	2.58	2.56	3.96
Hay, baled (ton)	19.30	18.80	25.20
Oats (bu.)599	.590	.837
Potatoes (cwt.)	1.10	1.04	2.32
Rye (bu.)986	.966	1.50
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)	1.75	1.76	2.54
Soybeans (bu.)	2.05	2.07	2.90
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)	4.36	3.83	5.54
Oranges, on tree (box)	2.67	2.75	2.20
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)	2.57	2.66	3.13
Beef cattle (100 lb.)	22.80	23.30	23.20
Calves (100 lb.)	28.40	27.90	25.50
Hogs (100 lb.)	15.40	15.40	21.70
Lambs (100 lb.)	18.10	18.90	25.70
Chickens, all (lb.)	16.6	16.8	26.9
Eggs (dozen)	35.4	33.8	47.4

¹ Preliminary

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

Some Changes in Vegetable Prospects

Estimated production of spring vegetables which make up about three-fourths of the spring crop, excluding melons, is 1 percent below the 1958 crop and 2 percent above average. Crops expected to be down substantially from last year are tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, and snap beans. Less sweet corn, green peppers, beets and eggplant are also forecast. These reductions are partly offset by a large increase in celery and there will be more lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, spinach, green peas, carrots and shallots.

Acreage to spring vegetables, estimated to date, is about 2 percent less than in 1958.

Smaller Acreage for Processing

Planted acreage of seven vegetables for commercial processing is expected to be about 2 percent below last year and 9 percent less than average. Indicated changes are: green lima beans,

1 percent more acres; snap beans, 5 percent more; contract cabbage for kraut, 4 percent less; sweet corn, 12 percent more; green peas, 9 percent less; winter and early spring spinach, 16 percent more; and tomatoes, 14 percent less than last year. These seven vegetables account for about 84 percent of the acreage for processing.

More Oranges than a Year Ago

An estimated 54.5 million boxes of oranges remained unharvested April 1 compared with 30.9 million boxes unharvested at the same date a year ago. Valencias in Florida and California account for 92 percent of the unharvested oranges with about 29 million boxes remaining in Florida and 21 million in California.

Of the 68.7 million boxes of oranges used to the end of March, 41.5 million boxes went to processors and 27.2 million were used as fresh fruit.

Much Grapefruit Remaining for Harvest

Grapefruit remaining for harvest April 1 amounted to about 11.8 million boxes. This compares with 5.7 million unharvested same date last year. The total crop this season is estimated at 43.5 million boxes, 9 percent greater than last year but 3 percent below average.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1958		1959		
	Mar.	Yr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	57,2	58,1	58,0	58,0	58,6
Farm employment	6,3	7,5	5,3	5,7	6,5
Family	5,1	5,6	4,4	4,6	5,1
Hired	1,2	2,0	1,0	1,1	1,4
Index numbers (1947-49 = 100)					
Industrial production ²	128	134	143	145	147
Total personal income payments ³	171	174	178	179	-
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	144	149	158	161	164
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	154	158	165	166	168
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	120	119	120	120	120
Farm commodities	100	95	92	91	91
Food, processed	111	111	109	108	107
Consumer price index ⁴	123	124	124	124	-
Food	121	120	119	118	-
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers.....	256	250	244	243	244
Crops	232	224	215	218	222
Food grains	225	208	199	203	205
Feed grains and hay	149	154	152	154	155
Cotton	220	253	238	239	255
Tobacco	475	482	500	505	505
Oil bearing crops.....	230	225	218	221	223
Fruit	225	249	211	225	218
Commercial vegetables.....	339	242	266	264	284
Livestock and products	277	272	270	265	263
Meat animals	335	334	328	322	327
Dairy products	254	254	264	259	249
Poultry and eggs.....	186	167	160	158	153
Prices paid by farmers					
All commodities.....	273	273	276	275	276
Used in living	287	287	288	288	287
Used in production	263	264	268	267	268
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	293	293	298	297	298
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted ...	567	574	610	610	610
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)	87	85	82	82	82

¹ Bureau of the Census
³ Department of Commerce

² Federal Reserve Board.
⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Feb. 1958	Jan.-Feb. 1959
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk	Bil. lb.	¹ 29,9	¹ 29,8
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	279,2	284,4
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	270,6	267,2
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	232,0	223,0
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	131,3	132,5
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	84,3	89,1
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 15,5	¹ 16,4
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	664	748
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	45,1	43,5
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	68,2	92,2
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	3,8	7,9
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	48,7	52,7
Chicks hatched, total ³	Millions	¹ 637	¹ 698
Chicks hatched, broiler ³	Millions	¹ 428	¹ 482
Poult hatched ³ :			
Heavy breeds	Millions	¹ 18,1	¹ 18,1
Light breeds.....	Millions	¹ 3,0	¹ 4,6
<u>Meat Production²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	2,171	2,073
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	192	146
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,601	1,872
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	112	137
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	4,076	4,228
<u>Slaughter²</u>			
Cattle	1,000 head	3,969	3,532
Calves.....	1,000 head	1,680	1,277
Hogs	1,000 head	12,135	13,745
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	2,248	2,712

¹ January-March
³ By commercial hatcheries.

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

Lemons, Better than Average Crop

California lemon crop, estimated at 16.5 million boxes, is 24 percent above average, though 2 percent smaller than last season. As of April 1, about 6.6 million boxes had been picked, leaving 9.9 million boxes (60 percent of the crop) to be harvested.

Peaches, Well Above Average Condition

Condition of peaches in the Southern States, reported at 84 percent on April 1, was 1 point below the near-record figure of a year earlier but 24 points above the April 1 average. Slightly better condition than last year in South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi; the same as last year in Louisiana; slightly below last year in North Carolina and Georgia; significantly lower in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Fewer Spring Potatoes Indicated

Early spring potato crop, forecast at 3,643,000 hundredweight, is down from last year by 23 percent but will top the average by 9 percent.

Acreage for the late spring crop is placed at 137,300 acres, 17 percent below the 1958 harvested acreage and 26 percent below average.

Little Change in Milk Output

The 10.7 billion pounds of milk produced in March was about the same as a year earlier but 6 percent above the 1948-57 average for the month. The total output in March was sufficient to provide 1.95 pounds of milk daily to each person in the U. S. This compared with 2.00 pounds per person in March a year earlier and 2.05 for the 10-year average for the month.

Milk production in the first 3 months totaled 29.8 billion pounds compared with 29.9 billion in the January - March period last year.

Lower Milk Output Last Year--Fewer Cows

U.S. milk cows produced an estimated 125,236,000,000 pounds of milk during 1958--down from year previous by 703 million pounds. Number of milk cows in 1958 averaged 19,784,000 head, 3 percent fewer than in 1957. The decrease in number of cows more than offset the high amount of milk produced per cow. For State figures and other details, see "Milk, Farm Production, Disposition, and Income" issued by Crop Reporting Board, AMS, April 1959.

Cattle Slaughter Down, Hog Slaughter Up

The number of cattle slaughtered during the first 2 months of 1959 was 11 percent below the comparable period of 1958; the number of calves slaughtered was down 24 percent; hog slaughter was up 13 percent; and sheep and lamb slaughter was up 21 percent.

Red Meat Output Up 4 Percent

The 4,228 million pounds of red meat produced in the U. S. during the first 2 months of 1959 topped that of a year earlier by 4 percent. Of the January-February volume, 2,073 million pounds

were beef, down 5 percent from last year; 146 million pounds were veal, down 24 percent; 1,872 million pounds were pork, up 17 percent; and 137 million pounds were mutton and lamb, up 22 percent from 1958.

More Eggs than a Year Ago

Nearly 6 billion eggs were produced in March, 9 percent more than in March 1958. Increases were 17 percent in the South Atlantic region, 15 percent in the South Central, 9 percent in the East North Central, 7 percent in the North Atlantic, 6 percent in the West, and 5 percent in the West

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings by States, February 1959¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine	8,271	5,199	13,470
New Hampshire	3,862	799	4,661
Vermont	8,252	914	9,166
Massachusetts	8,488	2,914	11,402
Rhode Island	1,001	371	1,372
Connecticut	8,331	3,726	12,057
New York	46,149	12,790	58,939
New Jersey	14,590	4,254	18,844
Pennsylvania	46,185	14,206	60,391
Ohio	49,504	17,639	67,143
Indiana	53,494	34,228	87,722
Illinois	88,834	80,790	169,624
Michigan	29,768	21,544	51,312
Wisconsin	82,474	8,542	91,016
Minnesota	81,082	32,872	113,954
Iowa	158,122	63,216	221,338
Missouri	53,484	16,031	69,515
North Dakota	14,153	24,616	38,769
South Dakota	36,362	17,869	54,231
Nebraska	63,230	47,548	110,778
Kansas	42,534	61,973	104,507
Delaware	4,553	895	5,448
Maryland	12,956	2,847	15,803
Virginia	15,953	7,917	23,870
West Virginia	5,376	1,764	7,140
North Carolina	19,930	12,727	32,657
South Carolina	7,366	5,092	12,458
Georgia	27,002	7,946	34,948
Florida	14,521	71,477	85,998
Kentucky	18,944	5,861	24,805
Tennessee	16,742	11,889	28,631
Alabama	19,201	6,459	25,660
Mississippi	14,732	8,328	23,060
Arkansas	14,467	11,021	25,488
Louisiana	10,053	6,185	16,238
Oklahoma	22,968	9,694	32,662
Texas	58,787	49,571	108,358
Montana	11,306	19,136	30,442
Idaho	13,887	13,083	26,970
Wyoming	2,922	1,364	4,286
Colorado	21,870	16,897	38,767
New Mexico	8,384	5,737	14,121
Arizona	8,717	18,117	26,834
Utah	7,911	1,314	9,225
Nevada	2,912	479	3,391
Washington	15,424	26,994	42,418
Oregon	11,797	9,373	21,170
California	76,930	74,274	151,204
United States	1,363,781	878,482	2,242,263

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	February 1959	March 1959 ²
CASH RECEIPTS	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Total marketings and CCC loans ³	2,242	2,200
Livestock and products	1,364	1,500
Meat animals	768	
Dairy products.....	347	
Poultry and eggs	223	
Other	26	
Crops	878	0,700
Food grains.....	146	
Feed crops	312	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	63	
Oil-bearing crops.....	77	
Tobacco	15	
Vegetables	90	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	100	
Other	75	
Government payments.....	34	
Grand total	2,276	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:	1947-49 = 100	
All commodities	104	99
Livestock and products.....	112	120
Crops	94	70

¹ For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

² Preliminary.

³ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1958 average.....	\$1,065	\$427	\$638	40%
1958 February.....	1,049	430	619	41%
1959 January.....	1,048	408	640	39%
1959 February.....	1,043	404	639	39%

¹ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

More Eggs--Continued from p. 3

North Central region. The trend continues toward larger, well-managed flocks and improved laying strains.

Total egg production January through March was 6 percent above the same period last year.

The number of layers on April 1, totaled 308,615,000 compared with 300,459,000 on April 1 last year--an increase of 3 percent. There were increases in all regions except the West North Central where it was the same as last year.

Feeding Less Favorable to Poultrymen

The egg-feed, farm chicken-feed, broiler-feed, and turkey-feed price relationships were less favorable to producers than a year earlier. The cost of the U. S. farm poultry ration in mid-March was \$3.40 per 100 pounds--down 1.0 cent from a month earlier. The average cost of broiler growing mash on March 15 was \$4.90 per hundred pounds, compared with \$4.94 a month earlier and \$4.91 on March 15, 1958. Cost of turkey growing mash was \$4.92 per 100 pounds, the same as last month and compared with \$4.78 a year earlier.

More Pullet Chicks for Broiler Replacement

March placement of pullet chicks for broiler hatchery supply flocks, indicated at 3,450,000 chicks, was 11 percent more than in March 1958.

Higher Farm Employment

The 6,493,000 persons at work on farms in late March exceeded the number a year earlier by 3 percent. The total includes 5,134,000 farm family workers and 1,359 hired, largest hired total in 4 years.

Farm Wages Up from Last Year

Farm wage rates April 1 were higher than a year earlier in most States. The U. S. composite rate per hour (weighted, cash only) averaging nearly \$0.72 was 9 percent above the nearly \$0.66 per hour on April 1 last year. Rate per month, with house, at \$179.00 compared with \$165.00 a year ago. For other details on farm wages and employment, see Farm Labor report issued monthly by Crop Reporting Board, AMS.